I CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented method for denying unauthorized access to data stored in a computer data storage medium of a computer, said computer-implemented method comprising:

reading a product serial number of the storage medium;

processing the product serial number to generate a locking signal;

recording the locking signal, and setting a status of the storage medium to a locked state;

allowing the user of the computer to supply a disarm input;

converting the disarm input into a converted signal;

comparing the converted signal with the locking signal;

releasing the storage medium from the locked state so as to allow the user to access the data stored in the storage medium when a match is detected between the converted and locking signals; and

maintaining the locked state of the storage medium so as to deny the user access to the data stored in the storage medium when a match is not detected between the converted and locking signals.

2. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forcing the computer to shut down when a match is not detected between the converted and locking signals.

3. The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the disarm input is a non-alphanumeric input.